

The Eastern Iowa DXer



The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



October 1999

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Club Officers

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Tom White, KØVZR

Al Groff, KØVM

Joe Finkstein, WØMJN

Jim Spencer, WØSR

PacketCluster

WB8ZRL

147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

Repeater

WØNX/R

144.59/145.19

From the President

Dave Andersen, KØRX

Welcome to the fall issue of the EIDXAs newsletter! It certainly appears that fall is here - there were a couple of areas of frost around my house this morning when I woke up. That means the fall/winter DX and contest season is just about upon us. To promote more activity by the club (and to increase our club score in the magazine listings) I want to establish an EIDXAs contest award program for this year. I will fill you in on more of the details at the meeting on October 8 (usual time and place), but be sure to mark on your calendars the CQ WW SSB and CW dates. They are: SSB - October 30 and 31, CW - November 27 and 28. Also, the ARRL Sweepstakes contest will be in November as well. November 6-8 for CW and 20-22 for SSB.

I had the opportunity to attend the W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet in the Chicago area recently. They had a nice program, including presentations by N9GL on his FP/N9PD dxpedition; WØCG on the VP5CW contest operation; an ARRL forum with Ed Metzger, W9PRN, Howie Huntington, K9KM, and Wayne Mills, N7NG; W8UVZ and WB9Z on their VK9X/Y trip; W9KNI on the Bencher Skyhawk beam; K9EID with his evangelizing about the science of audio; KJ9I on T88II; N4GN and BQ9P; AA7A on 3B9R; and W3UR on E44DX. They had a nice door-prize table too, although I didn't win anything of note. The ban-

quet speaker was Dave Heil, K8MN (currently 5H3US). I had met Dave a number of years ago during a W9ZRX/N9MM multi-contest effort and it was fascinating to hear of his adventures in Africa over the past 15 years.

Perhaps the most interesting presentation was one given by Wayne Mills, N7NG on the recent P51BH operation. He used a set of slides prepared by the operator, Martti Laine, OH2BH. The operation took place in the so-called Rajin-Sonbong "free" economic zone in northern North Korea near the Tumen River. This free economic zone is a place where the usual laws of North Korean society are suspended somewhat. The primary reason for the existence of this zone is that the North Koreans are building a casino/hotel complex in order to lure rich Chinese across the border and separate them from their money. The area is governed by an administrator appointed by Kim Jong Il, the North Korean dictator. There is a brief description of this area on the web at <http://www.dpr-korea.com/ra-son-e.html>. According

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1999 Membership List Enclosed!

From the President (cont. from page 1)

to Wayne, the administrator of the area has been replaced three times since 1995, because the old administrator was executed for taking bribes. This kind of governmental turnover makes it quite difficult to create long-term relationships.

The current administrator is the one who approved the P51BH license. The operation was carried off inside a shipping container which usually serves as a Ministry of Telecommunications office. A 100 foot tower near the shack was used with antennas mounted by MoTc workers. The license was valid for one day from 0900 local to 1700 local time. Antenna installation was completed at approximately 1030 local. Wayne said that conditions were poor and that Martti called CQ for two and 1/2 hours before he got his first answer. After a brief period of activity, the entire assemblage broke for lunch. Following lunch, Martti had better luck, and overall about 250 stations were worked from P51BH, on both SSB and CW. You can hear some of the audio at <http://www.qsl.net/9k2hn/p51bh.ram>. The operation ended with everyone feeling friendly toward everyone else, however no promises of future operating permission were made.

Don't forget the Jamboree on the Air this year, October 16 and 17. If you know a scout group, make arrangements to have them over to your shack. If you don't know any scout groups, then just get on the air and work the scouts on from elsewhere. Its a great way to introduce new blood to our hobby. The list of suggested frequencies for this year's JOTA is:

Updated Scout Frequencies for JOTA 1999

Band	Phone (MHz)	CW (MHz)
80m	3.740, 3.940	3.590
40m	7.270	7.030
20m	14.290	14.070
17m	18.140	18.080
15m	21.360	21.140
12m	24.960	24.910
10m	28.390	28.190

I will be on as KØA with some of the local Scouts from the Solon Troop and Pack.

I am looking forward to an interesting meeting on October 8. Hope to see you there!

73 Dave KØRX

WØEJ Endorsement

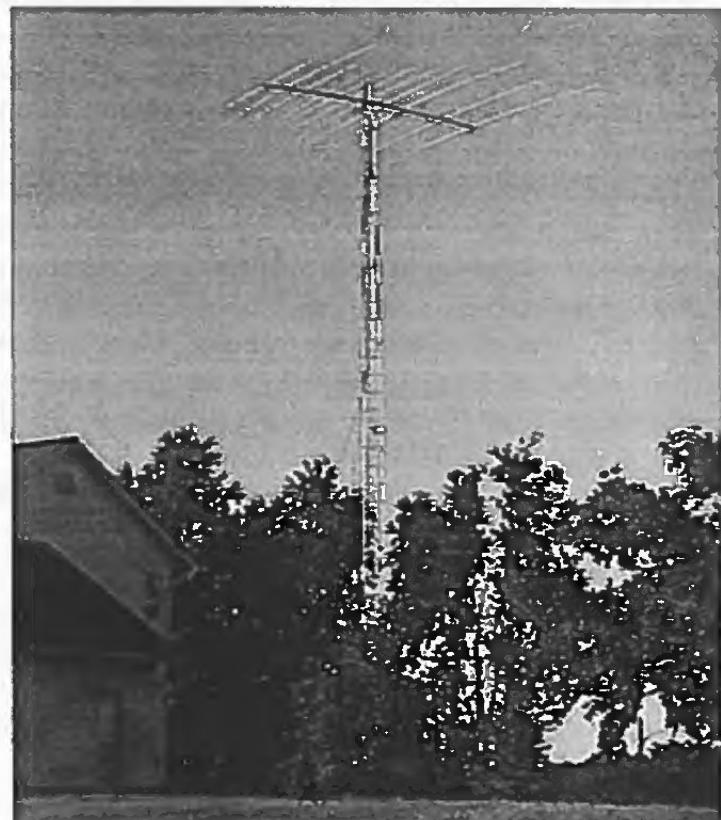
To: All EIDX members
Subject: Midwest Division Director vote

By the time you read this, you should have all received ballots for the ARRL Midwest Division Director election. One of our own is on that ballot. WØEJ is running for the seat being vacated by K4VX. Wade is an active DXer and contester. Recognizing the importance of antennas to DX and contests, Wade was a key figure opposing the Cedar Rapids City and Linn County efforts to drastically limit towers. He was later recognized as Midwest Division Amateur of the Year for his efforts.

You have all received Wade's mailing. Read again his vision statement. I find this to be very pro ham radio and trust you do too.

I solicit your vote for Wade, and request you mark your ballot and put it in the mail today.

Tom, WB8ZRL

KØDX QTH Features New Tower

Tom, KØDX, recently erected a 72 foot Heights aluminum tower crowned with a TH11 hybrid log periodic antenna. Look for Tom in the pile-ups, he shouldn't be hard to hear.

DX Is!

Occasional Blunders

Nelson Moyer, KUØA

If you've worked everything you've heard in your DX'ing career, you have my congratulations. I haven't always been blessed with enough aluminum to work everything I could hear. Jim Smith's last operation from A5 comes to mind, and the two operators on VU/L in the early 1990's. But the absolute worst blunders I've ever made cost me two entities I could and should have worked for all time new ones. Lets look at them and see what lessons they teach.

The year was 1990 and Bouvet, the country on top of the most wanted list was coming up. The 3Y5X operation was intended to knock it out of the top ten, and I was ready for the fray. Unfortunately, I have to attend week-long professional meetings several times each year, and it just so happened that the 3Y5X came up the day I had to leave town. I wasn't too concerned, since I would be back in plenty of time to make it into the log before they closed down. When I got back, I tuned 20 meters and heard the most awful example of ham misbehavior I've ever heard before or since. I listened in disbelief for a few minutes and turned off the radio. I refused to dignify the mayhem by transmitting my call. The operation went QRT the next day or so, and I never heard it again. I suppose I could have tried other times and bands, and made a contact, but the operator I heard was so bad and the chaos on frequency was so crude, that I didn't want to participate in it. I reasoned that there would be another operation someday, and that it would surely be of higher quality than the one I had the misfortune to hear. That proved to be a major error in judgment. Bouvet is a protected environment, and the likelihood of another major operation is remote. We'll be lucky to work an occasional scientist operating low power in his spare time. If I had exercised a little patience and perseverance, I'm sure I could have worked 3Y5X. Now, I may never get another chance.

The second blunder occurred in 1997 during the last BS7H operation. I got up at 3 a.m. and heard a very weak but perfectly copyable CW signal from the Reef. I listened to several west coast ops work him just above my noise level, and it was a quiet band that morning. I

couldn't hear a pileup, and the op was working a minimal split. I considered sending my call, but reasoned that he would be stronger later and I didn't want to risk a broken call by jumping in too soon. As it turned out, the Philippine Navy shut the operation down, and I never heard them again. The lesson here, if you can hear the DX well enough to copy calls, dump yours in. The op on BS7H was a very good CW operator, and he would have copied my call with 600 watts output into a TH11. I found out later that he was operating barefoot into a tribander at around 15 feet above the water. He could have heard me much better than I was hearing him, so there was no reason not to call. By being too cautious, and by paying too much attention to the MiniProp prediction, I listened when I should have been transmitting. If you can hear them, chances are, they will hear you very well. Go for it. Because of the political complications surrounding BS7, I may not ever get another chance to work it, either. If I had worked both of these DX'peditions, I would only have four more entities to work to make it to the top of the Honor Roll. It's hell to think of what might have been.

The other blunders I'm about to reveal pale by comparison to missing two all time new ones through poor judgment, or lack of patience and perseverance. These blunders caused me to miss CW contacts for 9L, HKØ/M, KH5, and ZL8. Let's look at what happened.

When Dave Heil was booming in as 9L1US in 1990-91, who ever thought that 9L would ever disappear from the bands? Well, third world countries are inherently unstable and it behooves us to work them while we can. I worked Dave on 4 bands, including a 40 meter phone contact, but I never bothered to work him on CW. Big mistake! Get your bands and modes where you can. If you procrastinate, you may be lost. Eventually, Dave was reassigned, the revolution started, and 9L hasn't been on the air in years.

KH5 is another case of indifference. I worked operations in 1993 and 1997 on SSB, but I didn't bother to chase them on CW. The operator in 1998 didn't operate CW, so I didn't have an option. Who knows when the next op will take a keyer to Palmyra?

The ZL8RI operation was awarded DX'pedition of the Year in 1996, but I didn't bother to work them on any band or mode. This operation started just as I left for a professional meeting and I didn't bother to look for them when I got back in town a week later. I can't

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DX Is! Occasional Blunders (continued from page 3)

for the life of me remember why I completely overlooked the chance to work Kermadec on CW when it was available day and night. Lesson here is to keep your needs list ever before you, so you don't suffer a total laps of consciousness and miss something you need.

The last example I have is from the HKØTU operation in 1990. I worked them on SSB and easily broke the pile-up on 20 meter CW, even with my Butternut HF5B. The op was sending slow irregular CW and he was having trouble copying calls in the QRM. I sent my call twice, and he came back with KUØAK. I tried several times to get him to acknowledge my correct call without success. He finally went on to work the next station. I never heard my call sent correctly, but I couldn't be sure in the QRM. I didn't work them again CW on 20 meters any other band. The card came back, "not in the log". Now I'm pretty sure he had KUØAK in the log, but I didn't get the card. I would have resented and explained the problem, but mail to Columbia is not too reliable, and I didn't think the expense was worth the effort. I could have saved myself all the agonizing by simply working them again on CW, on 20 meters or another band. I don't know why I didn't do that. Never assume you made it into the log until you hear your full call clearly. Fortunately, there may be another operation from Malpelo (Bad Rock) in early 2000. You can bet I'll make it into the log on CW during this operation!

So the painful lessons I learned are:

- Indifference is an insidious disease that sneaks up on you when you've got a high entity count, and you're not paying attention to your needs list.
- Patience and perseverance are virtues to cultivate if you aspire to the top of the Honor Roll. The rare DX aren't easy to work and the clowns are abundant. Don't let the lids get you down.
- Never ever assume that you'll have another chance to work the DX. If you can hear them, work them. You might not live long enough for another chance.
- Don't let your professional life interfere with working DX, or at least, don't allow it to prevent you from working the all time new ones. After all, you will retire from professional life one day, but you will still be working DX.
- Make sure you hear your call clearly and that the DX op acknowledges your report. If you're not absolutely sure your in the log, work them again.

There you have it—pearls of wisdom from one who's been in the trenches and occasionally come out bruised and battered. I hope you never suffer the pangs of regret, as you ponder what might have been. See you in the pile-ups.

DX'ing Aides

Reprinted from *How's DX*, QST June 1999

DXCC Entities Belonging to the Universal Postal Union

3A, 3B8, 3C, 3DA0, 3D2, 3V, 3W, 3X, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4X, 5A, 5B, 5H, 5N, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7O, 7P, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8Q, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M, 9N, 9Q, 9U, 9V, 9X, 9Y, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BY, C2, C5, C6, C9, CE, CM, CN, CP, CT, CX, D2, D4, D6, DL, DU, E3, EA, EI, EK, EL, EP, ER, ES, ET, EW, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FH, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR (all), FS, FT5 (all), FW, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, H4, HA, HB, HBO, HC, HH, HI, HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I (all), J2, J3, J5, J6, J7, J8, JA, JT, JY, K, KHØ, KH2, KH6, KH8, KL7, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OHØ, OK, OL, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, P5, PA, PJ2, PJ8, PY, PZ, S2, S5, S7, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV (all), T2, T30, T31, T32, T33, T5, T7, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ, TL, TN, TR, TT, TU, TY, TZ, UA (all), UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V5, V8, VE, VK, VK9N, VP2E, VP2K, VP2M, VP2V, VP5, VP8/F, VP8/G, VP8/Sand, VP9, VQ9, VR2, VP6, VU, XE, XT, XU, XW, XX9, XZ, YA, YB, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZD7, ZD8, ZD9, ZF, ZK1 (all), ZK2, ZK3, ZL, ZP, ZS.

UPU Membership has not been completed by the following DXCC Entities
C3, T8, V6, V7, YB9/East Timor*

*East Timor is not a DXCC Country at this time but has applied for membership to the UPU.

Caution!

Some postal clerks don't issue many IRCs, and they may not remember to postmark them on the left side at the point of purchase. Watch them closely to be sure they count them right, and stamp the postmark in the right place. IRCs are worthless without the postmark of the issuing post office in the left-hand box. IRCs are sold on the secondary market, but those issued before January 1, 1975 are no longer valid. Don't get stuck with worthless IRCs.

1999 EIDX Association Membership List

Call	Class	Paid	Name	Address	State	ZIP	HomePhone	WorkPhone	E-mail
KU0A	F	Y	Nelson Moyer	28 Ealing Dr.	Iowa City	52246	319-351-8775	319-335-4500	nmoyer@uhl.uiowa.edu
NOAAA	F	Y	Jan Clue	320 College Blvd	Mount Vernon	52314	319-365-3135	319-375-1329	
WA3AFS	F	Y	Bruce Goldstein	2092 Sunland Dr. SE	Cedar Rapids	52403	319-377-4367	515-825-3323	allan-cultben@uiowa.edu
KOAL	F	Y	Al Culbert	328 Norman Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids	52402	515-825-3400	515-825-3400	n0av@neins.net
NOAV	F	Y	Jim Harvey	819 N. Main St.	Goldfield	50542	319-657-3681	319-648-2891	
W0AWL	F	Y	Terry Cellman	703 Lincoln St.	Ainsworth	52201	319-752-8700	319-754-4692	
WB0B	F	Y	Larry J. Newby	P.O. Box 185	West Burlington	52655			
K0BJ	AD	W	Bruce Frahm	P. O. Box DX	Colby	67701			
KZ0C	F	Y	Jim Bohnsack	1169 Rainbow Dr.	Waterloo	50701	319-233-7189	319-351-8258	
K0CF	F	Y	Craig Fastenow	3503 Foxana Drive	Iowa City	52246-8617			
WOCK	F	Y	Jonathan E. Poulton	729 Alpine Drive	Iowa City	52245-5403			
K0CKD	F	Y	Dennis Peterson	1815 Mulberry Ave.	Muscatine	52761-3554			
KC0CRA	F	Y	Tony Whitmore	2352 303rd. St.	Washington	52353			
KADCWR	A	Y	Mary Dennis	400 E. Vine	Toledo	52342	515-484-4837	515-484-5080	tonywhitmore@llisco.com
WV0D	F	Y	Terry Perkins	3119 Falcon Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	52402	319-393-5503		terry4871@aol.com
N0DY	V	N	Jeff Davis	1700 Fox Hollow Rd.	Marion	52302-9686			n0dy@arrl.net
K0DX	F	Y	Tom Kueny	1573 Eagleview Ct. NW	Swisher	52338	319-857-4595	319-335-3811	tom_kueny@uiowa.edu
W0EJ	F	Y	Wade Walstrom	7431 Macon Drive	Cedar Rapids	52411-8032	319-393-8982		wade@inav.net
W0FG	F	Y	Richard Hadley	115 Scenic Dr.	Vinton	52349			
W0FMS	V	N	Fred Spinner	2730 Tower Dr.	Cedar Rapids	52411	319-395-9329		
K0GT	F	Y	Gary Toomsen	1935 16th St.	Marion	52302	319-377-5563	319-295-1924	fpapple@inav.net
W0GWK	F	Y	Frank Apple	4360 Ridge Road	Cedar Rapids	52411			
W0HBK	V	Y	Neale LeMense	2239 William Penn Way	Lancaster	17601			k0so@juno.com
K3HQ	A	Y	Brad Farrell	1610 Hershey Ave.	Muscatine	52761	319-263-9150	319-263-6141	
K0IIR	F	Y	Clark Panel	29981 280th St	Shell Rock	50670	319-885-4400	319-236-1500	taylor@waterlooindustries.com
K0INR	A	Y	Tom Taylor	R.R #7 Box 160	Oltumwa	52501	515-994-5320		k0jgh@jisco.net
K0JGH	F	Y	Glen Kessekring	P. O. Box 26	Chillicothe	52548			jim_lasley@thaddeus.com
N0JL	SM	W	Jim Lasley	Anamosa	IA	52205			
NN0L	F	Y	Ron Borkgren	1106 E 2nd Street	Cedar Rapids	52411-8017			
W0LBK	F	Y	Arlo Meyer	7661 Commune Ct.	Cedar Rapids	52402	319-378-8636	319-295-8624	n0lno@rr.org
N0LNO	A	Y	Bill Caldwell	4505 Regal Ave NE	Muscatine	52761			
AB0M	F	Y	Craighton Long	6119 Sunrise Cir.	Cedar Falls	50613			SuntererSG@JDRX.deere.com
AK0M	A	Y	Sieve Sutler	1928 Continental Drive	Toledo	52342			dmallory@compuservc.com
W0MID	F	Y	Dennis I. Mallory	703 Willow St	Marion	52302	319-377-6573	319-295-3719	josephf@inav.net
W0MIN	F	Y	Joe Finkstein	2210 Empire St.	Kcota	52248			
KE0MO	F	Y	Tom Redlinger	22387 330th Ave.	Burlington	52601	319-752-9310		
W0NB	A	Y	Jim Livengood	R.R. 1 Ferre's Lane	Shellsburg	52332	319-436-7786		lhise@inav.net
NC0O	F	Y	Tom Hise	PO Box 104	Cedar Rapids	52402			
W0OF	F	Y	Bill Snyder	3951 Sally Dr NE	Iowa City	52245	319-338-1601	319-338-7371	richard-bingham@uiowa.edu
W0PFF	F	Y	George Carsner	411 Terrace Rd.	Coralville	52241			k0rx@uiowa.edu
WW0Q	A	Y	Rich Bingham	707 12th Avenue	Solon	52333			hsmiller@pcisia.com
K0RX	F	Y	David Andersen	2761 Lakeview Dr	Oltumwa	52501-8176	515-684-4753		
N0SM	F	Y	Sieve Miller	6052 Highway 63	Cedar Rapids	52411	319-393-2974		
W0SML	F	Y	Doug Byal	2323 Springbrook Dr	Cedar Rapids	52402	319-393-7353	319-295-2305	
W0SR	F	Y	Jim Spencer	3712 Tanager Dr. NE	Toledo	52342	515-484-4837		
W0SSR	A	Y	Chuck Dennis	400 E. Vinc					

1999 EIDXA Membership List

NOTLZ	V	J. W. Kelley	3223 Outer View Road	Toddville	IA	52341
KKOU	F	Paul Feddersen	703 Eclipse Lane	Clinton	IA	52732
WRQJ	F	Scott Augsburg	1005 Westwood Drive	Mt. Pleasant	IA	52641
NY0V	F	Tom Vinson	10211 Hall Road	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411
K0VM	A	Al Groff	5710 Michael Drive	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411
K0VSV	F	Tom Kramer	905 LeRoy	Muscatine	IA	52761
K4VX	D	Lew Gordon	P. O. Box 105	Hannibal	MO	63401
K0VZR	F	Tom White	2027 Carter Ave	Jesup	IA	50648
W0WP	F	Tom Lindgren	9786 Blairsferry Road	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411
NR0X	F	Heinz Blankenhagen	7734 Highway One	Mariette	IA	52305
K0YA	A	Tom Hauer	1311 Skylark Drive	Cedar Rapids	IA	52403
NOYVV	A	Steve Sawyers	1822 Somerset Dr	Marion	IA	52302
NOYY	F	Rick Heinrich	2062 Hindman Rd	Marion	IA	52302
WB8ZRL	F	Tom Vayra	682 Palisades Access Rd.	Ely	IA	52227

Class: F-Full; A-Associate; D-Director; AD-Assoc. Director; SM-Section Manager; V-Visitor
 Paid: Y-Yes; N-No; W-Waived

MINUTES—Summer Meeting of the EIDXA

August 16, 1999

The meeting was called to order by the president, KØRX at the picnic site at NRØX. Introductions were made and thanks given to all who made the picnic a success.

Old Business:

Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as published. WØAWL spoke briefly about club clothing and caps. See Terry for more information or ordering. KØVZR spoke about the need to keep the dues paid current. It's best to handle dues as close to the start of the club's fiscal year (October) as possible.

New Business:

Discussion was held about a nominations committee. The prevailing belief was that a second year was almost always attached, by railroad, to the first. Jim, WØSR, spoke about Wade, WØEJ, and his run for ARRL Midwest Director. It was moved and seconded and passed to contribute \$200 to Wade's campaign war chest. WB8ZRL moved to adjourn. It was seconded and it did happen.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Tom White, KØVZR

EIDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 1999

BankIowa Savings Account Balance on 6/30/99 \$603.37

Withdrawals:

Newsletter Expenses	\$58.40
WØAWL Picnic Expenses	\$35.06
WØEJ Campaign	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$293.46

Dues Paid 8/16/99	\$60.00
Deposit of Cash on Hand	\$50.00

\$419.91

Editors Note: The newsletter was already finished when I received the minutes and treasurer's report today. This was the only space left, so here they are!

Annobomb—It Went Bust

Nelson Moyer, KUØA

The 3CØR operation went QRT a day early, much to the disgust or joy of hams worldwide, depending upon your point of view. While this operation undoubtedly gave many DX'ers a new entity mode or band, the furor it raised nearly matched that generated by the all time worst operation ever—Bouvet 1990. After so many exemplary operations to extremely rare and exotic locations in recent years, there was an expectation that 3CØR would be in the same league with the other class operations, perhaps even a contender for DXpedition of the year. What a disappointment! Let's take a look at 3CØR and see what went wrong, in hopes of preventing a repeat disaster in the future.

First some positives. The 3CØR team and the Lynx DX Association are to be commended for undertaking this operation and actually pulling it off. The relative isolation and the political intrigue involved in getting there with valid operating permission is no small undertaking. After an aborted effort last year, we should be thankful they made it. The operation started right on time, and generally followed a consistent pattern, albeit sometimes frustrating and occasionally infuriating. The pilot reports were generally helpful, although the operators didn't always do what they were reported to be doing. The best that can be said for this operation is that they worked a lot on phone and made 10 and 15 meter contacts possible on both phone and CW. We'll probably forgive them their trespasses when the QSL cards arrive. Maybe.

On the not so positive side, this operation left lots to be desired. The most obvious problem created by the operators was the enormous splits on phone and CW, a practice guaranteed to antagonize Joe Average, and result in a convergence of policemen, jammers, clowns, and idiots on the DX transmit frequency. It was not a pretty sound, prompting comparisons to Bouvet. To make matters worse, the CW op had a great deal of difficulty pulling full calls out of the pandemonium, resulting in most hams calling incessantly until the DX came back to a caller. The resulting rates were excruciatingly slow, meaning fewer QSOs made it into the log. The pattern of operating the pileup first appeared to be no pattern. Making a contact was largely a matter of luck, since the DX seemed to randomly jump around and pull out only the loudest stations. As the operation proceeded, it was apparent that there was some consistency to the inconsistency. The ops tended to work at 10 kHz intervals across the split, plus or minus 2-3 kHz from the center frequency. This meant that there were relatively clear frequencies in between the 10 kHz intervals where easy QSOs could be had, if only the DX had listened there. The other consistency I noticed was a tendency to gradually extend the pileup up the band until it was 40 kHz wide, with the DX working stations at the top of the split. These operating habits, especially the practice of not coming back with a full call, created some odd exchanges. I'm reconstructed some to illustrate how not to conduct a pileup.

The DX	Charlie Sierra go
Joe ham	xx#CS
The DX	xx#CS bye bye

Let's look at this format. First, the DX comes back to a partial call, an absolute no-no in big time DX'ing. Joe ham gives his call, but no report, since the DX doesn't have his call yet. The DX repeats

the call and says bye bye or just tunes off frequency! Neither station gave a signal report. Is this a valid contact? Wayne Mills, in his article on what it takes to make a two-way radio contact in the 1998 DX Yearbook would say no. Will ARRL count these contacts for DXCC credit? Who knows! At least the CW operator gave a signal report. He didn't confirm calls, though and he occasionally busted a call, which left you wondering if you were in the log or not, and requiring an insurance contact.

Another practice which must have chapped more than a few hams was to hear the phone op come back like this:

The DX	India Zulu go
	India Zulu go
	India Bravo go!

How would you feel if you were the India Zulu and the DX didn't stick with your suffix until the QSO was completed?

One of the most questionable practices used by a phone operator on this operation was to run two splits, simplex on 18.135 for South America and 18.145 up for North America, while transmitting on 18.140. Any North American who called on 18.135 was directed to QSY up with no contact. Speaking Spanish or having an EA prefix seemed to help you get into the log. On several occasions I heard the DX call QRZ North America only, and then come back with EA5xx cinco nueve.

The operators didn't seem to understand or care about the finer points of worldwide propagation. If Europe was open, and it always was on several bands, they ran Europe. Early in the operation, I listened in disbelief as the 10 meter opening to the Midwest came and went while they ran Europe hour after hour. The same thing happened on 12 meters. The phone op commented on how loud my signal was on 12 meters at 1719 UTC on September 22, and it was all I could do to keep from asking him why he hadn't turned the beam the West, instead of working Europe all morning. Except for the last two days of the operation, there was no low band activity between our sunset and their sunrise. None.

Europeans had a much easier time and received much more attention from the DX than North or South America. I don't think Oceania had much of a chance at all. Operating hours were limited, apparently because of few operators, and the operation regularly shut down for the night just as most of us were getting home from work. There was little 20 meter operation, usually the bread and butter band, and even less 40, 80 and 160 meter operation. 17 meters was available only sporadically toward the end of the operation.

You were lucky to work 3CØR on more than two bands. I needed a CW contact and I made five QSOs altogether, with CW contacts on 15, 12 and 10 meters and phone contacts on 10 and 12 meters. I already had Annobon on 15 meter phone so I spared myself the trauma. They were on 17 meters for about 40 minutes on the next to last night of the operation, but the pileup was huge by the time I got home from work and I spent more time listening to the unbelievable operating practices than calling the DX, so no 17 meter contact this time. They didn't operate much 20 meter CW and I refused to join the chaos on 20 meter phone.

A study of this operation should be required of all non-world class aspirants to rare DX locations. These operators were clearly not prepared to handle the pileups effectively. The fact that they made 20,000 plus QSOs in nine days of operation speaks to the stubbornness of the hams on both sides of the pileup. DXpeditioning has to get a lot better than this.

A Note From August, ES1WN

Dear Fellow Amateur:

Russia is a land with many political changes in recent years. Also several new countries have been created. If you would like to increase your enjoyment of ham radio, I offer my "life work", a Russian commonwealth and prefix wall map. This unique 42 by 28 map is multi-colored with state borders shown from 1991. The map is nicely detailed and includes CQ and ITU zones, with additional lists of the latest prefix changes. The compilation was the result of two years of work gathering the necessary information and overcoming printing problems. The price is \$10.00 U. S. (includes mailing expenses). Order from:

August Parn
P. O. Box 1649
Tallinn EE 0006
Estonia

Editor's Note:

August doesn't say whether the map dimensions are in inches or centimeters, but I'd guess it's centimeters.

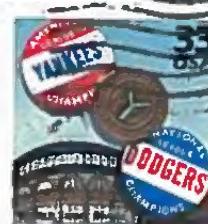
MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be Friday, October 8, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in room 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Community College campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for eyeball QSOs. Officers for the year 2000 will be elected. Don't miss the action!

2000 Dues are due!



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